

Hospital in Kalamazoo, Michigan for providing outstanding health care to the residents of Southwestern Michigan. Bronson was recently honored with the 2005 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, which is our Nation's highest Presidential honor to commend quality and organizational performance excellence.

The 6 recipients of the Malcolm Baldrige Award were selected from a highly competitive field of 64 nation-wide applicants, which were rigorously evaluated by an independent board of examiners.

This prestigious award will come as no surprise to the folks of Southwestern Michigan who have for years relied upon the hard work and treatment provided by Bronson Methodist Hospital. There is nothing more important to us than our health and the health of our family members. I would like to thank Bronson Methodist Hospital for the continued quality service they provide our community and congratulate them once again for being recognized nationally for their hard work and dedication. We are truly fortunate to have such an exemplary hospital working for us in our corner of Southwest Michigan.

**TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF  
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005**

SPEECH OF

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 6, 2005*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, as the House stands poised to consider and pass H.R. 1717, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005 (TVRA), I want to express my strong support for this legislation. I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 1717. I want to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of Survivors of Torture, International (SURVIVORS) in my district of San Diego, California. SURVIVORS is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to caring for survivors of politically-motivated torture and their families who live in San Diego County.

San Diego is home to the busiest land border crossing in the world. According to conservative estimates based on International Red Cross Red Crescent Societies' extrapolations of the percentage of torture survivors among refugees from countries where the use of systematic torture is documented, approximately 11,000 torture survivors are living in San Diego County today. They are from countries where the use of systematic torture is documented, including countries in Africa, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America.

Since 1997, SURVIVORS has helped more than 500 torture survivors from more than 40 countries to recover from their traumas through a holistic program including medical, dental, psychiatric, psychological, legal and social services. SURVIVORS empowers torture survivors to reclaim the strength and vitality that were stolen from them by brutal dictators and governments. The specialized care SURVIVORS provides these vulnerable individuals helps them to become self-sufficient and healthy members of their families and of our community. SURVIVORS currently serves approximately 200 survivors of torture and their families in San Diego County.

Mr. Speaker, SURVIVORS works with refugees, asylees, asylum seekers, and immigrants who are survivors of torture. By working with this large population in San Diego County, SURVIVORS is strengthening the nation: many of its clients move to other communities in the United States after receiving the care and services necessary to successfully build a new life here. As SURVIVORS continues to work in the community, it receives an increasing number of referrals and requests for services each year. There is also a need to continue making services even more comprehensive.

The professional background of SURVIVORS' clients include: business, religious, government, and farm leaders; university students and educators; journalists; physicians and nurses. They are talented, trained, productive people who feel destroyed. Torturers today are able to create conditions which effectively break down the victim's personality, identity, and his/her ability to live a full life later. At SURVIVORS and groups like it across the nation, these individuals find help to begin reclaiming their lives.

The significant majority of SURVIVORS clients in San Diego suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Major Depressive Disorder, or both. The worst consequences of torture are psychological "sequelae." These are normal yet disabling reactions for ordinary people who have endured the extreme trauma of torture.

People are referred to programs like SURVIVORS through a variety of sources, including: religious and community-based social service organizations, refugee resettlement organizations, immigration attorneys, public health care providers, schools, individuals in the community, and other torture survivors.

Mr. Speaker, the TVRA provides funds for torture treatment centers in the U.S. through the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). Currently, 27 programs in 17 states receive assistance through ORR. The treatment provided by these programs enables survivors of torture to recover their lives and become productive members of their communities. Many of these centers also train mainstream organizations and personnel. This increases the ability of health care providers, schools and other institutions to provide for the special needs of torture victims and contribute to the prevention of torture.

Since 2000, SURVIVORS has received the bulk of its funding from TVRA through ORR; and almost two-thirds of SURVIVORS' current financial support is funded through an ORR grant. TVRA provides funds for foreign treatment centers through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). In some cases, direct investment by the U.S. in torture rehabilitation centers provides important political support and protection, especially when the local embassy, Members of Congress and other American leaders visit these centers. SURVIVORS also receives funding to provide technical assistance and build the capacity of NGOs in Mexico that provide services to survivors of torture.

Mr. Speaker, TVRA also authorizes a contribution to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT). Funding from the U.N. helps many centers feel more secure in the dangerous work of aiding torture survivors that a regime has identified as its enemies. The UNVFVT supports nearly 200 treatment programs spanning 70 countries, in-

cluding nearly all U.S. centers. This funding is also vital to groups like SURVIVORS for direct programs.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker, the TVRA is a vital piece of legislation which funds essential services for survivors of torture throughout the 53rd District of California and San Diego County, and enhances the standing and reputation by exporting America's values in the form of support for foreign treatment centers. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill that is so important to so many.

**HONORING RETIRING CONCORD  
TOWN COUNCILMAN JOHN ALLAN**

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor John Allan, whose service as a member of the Concord Town Board will come to an end on December 31, 2005.

Councilman Allan is a man dedicated to effective public service for the residents of the Town of Concord. Few public officials love their hometown the way John Allan does, and his public acts have always had the intention of making life in the town of Concord better for those fortunate enough to live there.

While John's most recent run for public office has proven unsuccessful, it is a virtual certainty that he will remain active in local civic affairs. That is a good thing, for the town of Concord is better for the active public service of individuals like John Allan.

I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for offering me this opportunity to honor the public service of retiring Concord Councilman John Allan, and I hope that you will join me in offering to Mr. Allan the House's best wishes of good luck and Godspeed in all of his future endeavors.

**U.S. MARINE LANCE CORPORAL  
DAVID A. MENDEZ RUIZ**

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of United States Marine Corporal David A. Mendez Ruiz of Cleveland, Ohio, who bravely, honorably and selflessly heeded the call to duty and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country.

Family, friends and service to others framed Corporal Ruiz's young life. He gained personal strength and faith from those who knew him best and loved him most, especially his father and mother, Maximiliano and Miriam; sisters and brothers, Sandra, Byron, Laura, Mynor, Zucely, Edgar and Nydia; grandmother, Elvia Ruiz; and his fifteen nieces and nephews.

Corporal Ruiz was born in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on May 26, 1985. In 1991, at the age of six, Corporal Ruiz and his family immigrated to the United States and settled in Cleveland, Ohio. He quickly assimilated to American culture; his easygoing nature and generous heart easily drew others to him. One

month after graduating from Greater Cleveland Christian High School in May 2003, Corporal Ruiz enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he served with dedication and honor. In February 2004, he left for first tour of duty in Iraq. Corporal Ruiz left for his second tour of duty on July 4, 2005.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Lance Corporal David A. Mendez Ruiz. I extend my deepest condolences to his parents, brothers and sisters, grandmother, extended family members and many friends. Integrity, kindness, unwavering service to others and endless heart defined his young life and his spirit will live forever in the hearts and memories of everyone who knew and loved him best—his family and friends. Corporal Ruiz's courageous life and legacy of service will be forever honored and remembered by the Cleveland community and by our entire nation.

#### IN MEMORY OF DAVID HENSON

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I inform the House of the death of Dr. David Henson of Jefferson City, Missouri.

Dr. Henson grew up in Orlando, Florida. He attended Florida A&M University where he received a B.S. degree in Biology in 1961. In 1968, he earned a M.Sc.Ed. degree in Chemistry from Tuskegee University. In 1972, Dr. Henson received his Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry from the University of Iowa.

For more than two decades Dr. Henson made significant contributions to the field of higher education. Most notably, he was the Acting Chairperson, Department of Biochemistry, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, and Associate Professor of Biochemistry at Howard University College of Medicine; Dean of Student Affairs, Associate Dean of Yale College, Lecturer in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry and Fellow in Timothy Dwight College at Yale University; Provost and Professor of Chemistry at the Broward Campus of Florida Atlantic University and Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Services/Student Support Services at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Dr. Henson also served as President and Professor of Chemistry at Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, Alabama, and as Vice President of Student Services at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. On July 2, 1997, Dr. Henson became the seventeenth President of Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri. Under his leadership Lincoln University experienced unprecedented growth and renewal.

Dr. Henson also was involved in the Jefferson City community. He served on the Board of Directors for the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce, was a member of the Jefferson City Leadership Forum and the Rotary Club of Jefferson City.

Dr. Henson was a member of Sigma Xi Honorary Society, Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honorary Society, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and an Honorary Member of Kappa Kappa Psi Band Organization. Dr. Henson received the "African Americans Who Make a Difference Award", the Howard University Col-

lege of Medicine Student Council's Award for "Excellence in Teaching", the George Washington Carver Research Foundation Student Award, and an American Council on Education Fellowship.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Henson was a valuable leader in his community and was respected by everyone who knew him. He will be missed by all. I know the members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family.

#### HONORING STUDENTS AT LAKE SHORE MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 30, I was invited to address a gathering of students and faculty at the Lake Shore Middle School, located in the town of Evans in the 27th Congressional District. In addition to having the honor of speaking to a group of very attentive and inquisitive middle school students, I was honored with a presentation of writings in a "memory folder" that I want to talk about here today.

Students in the eighth grade government class of Mr. Keith Dash, a Lake Shore teacher—and former Buffalo State College graduate school classmate of mine—asked his students to write about freedom, and about what they think about when they think of freedom and life in America. A collection of these writings was bound and presented to me at this gathering, and I wanted to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to enter these writings into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The students contributing to this project are: Joshua Allen, Kelly Carlson, Cody Catalano, Katherine Dinkuhn, Rebecca Swatsworth, Kim Vona, Kalie Weinheimer, and Jessica Westley. I am honored to have received the writings that these students have labored on for so long, and am delighted to enter each student's contribution into the RECORD, as follows:

The most important element in social studies is the U.S. government. I mean we have all these freedoms; write anything, say anything, do anything. We get a fair trial no matter what the odds are. I am trying to say there isn't any place in the world as good as the USA. In the world it is chaos. I mean wars, fights, and riots. I mean we basically are the translators of many languages like English. We are strong and I don't want it to crash.—Joshua Allen

#### GOVERNMENT

(By Kelly Carlson)

The United States' Constitution is the foundation of our country, what we've built our lives around. To me the most important part of it is the first Amendment in the Bill of Rights. To have freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the very concept that we, the people of America can voice our opinions, is comforting. I value this amendment because, in most countries you're not allowed opinions, let alone to share those opinions with people around you. To me, what I believe is more important to me than a lot of things.

The most important right that the Constitution gave me is the right to bear arms. My father and I are both hunters. It is im-

portant that the animal population is controlled so deer don't get hit by cars and animals don't have to fight each other for food. It is also a good source of food because we eat all the meat of our kill. The right to bear arms is definitely the most important right to me.—Cody Catalano

#### THE AMERICAN LIFE

We see the obvious differences between, Us and the citizens of other countries. Some are industrialized, While others are third world.

We say what we want to in Maine, We publish in California. And worship in Pennsylvania, In Texas we gather

We buy a gun in Nevada We drive through Ohio And vote in New York

Marriage and voting It's all the same In the U.S. we can do it all

The constitution states our rights It says what we can do It protects us all And lets us have a view

(By Katherine Dinkuhn)

Voting is the most important to me in Democracy because it lets me have a say in the government. It also allows me to say my opinion and how I feel about my future. For example the person I feel appropriate to run for government, I would vote for. Voting may be an option but I feel that its everyones job but even better its everyones duty.—Rebecca Swatsworth

I think the most important thing in our government is our laws. This is the most important because they keep order within our community and make it a safer place to live.—Kim Vona

When I think of government, I think of the three branches, the constitution and lots of laws. To me, the most important part of the government is laws. The laws I lead my life by, the laws I follow and the laws I can look up to when I need to be pointed in the right direction. They show me right and wrong, good and bad. They let me understand our society today. They explain things like how we became a free country or how slaves became free. But most important, they hold up our society. So, when I think of our government, I think of laws.—Kalie Weinheimer

There are many important ideas in the Constitution of the United States of America. But there is a very important one that means a lot to me. I think the most important thing in the Constitution is the 15th Amendment. This amendment states that all citizens are given equal rights. This is very important to me because I think regardless of race and color all people should be equal—as the Constitution states. Just because people have a different race they should not be treated different. The Constitution protects this right. The Constitution is the guideline to the government of the United States of America. All people should put others' race and color aside. All people are created equal and should be treated equal as well. Living in America would not be as wonderful without that right. Because of this great Constitution many people came to America and this should always be a part of the United States way of life.—Jessica Westley